

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of October 5, 2007 is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Thus, claims 1-4, 7, 9 and 10 are currently pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dreiman et al. (US 6,135,727). In addition, on pages 3-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dreiman. For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

The discussion of the invention provided below makes reference to the specification and figures of the present application. However, these references are made only for the Examiner's benefit, and are not intended to limit the claims.

The present invention is directed to a hermetic compressor which, as shown in Figs. 1, 3 and 4, and as described on pages 5 and 6 of the original specification, includes an electric driving element 105, a compressing element 106 driven by the electric driving element 105, and a closed vessel 101 for housing the electric driving element 105 and the compressing element 106. The compressing element 106 includes a shaft 110 having an eccentric shaft portion 112, a spindle portion 111 provided at a bottom surface of the eccentric shaft portion 112, and an auxiliary shaft portion 113 provided at a top surface of the eccentric shaft portion 112 so as to be coaxial with the spindle portion 111. The compressing element 106 also includes a cylinder block 116 having a compression chamber 117, a main bearing 118 provided on the cylinder block 116 so as to support the spindle portion 111 of the shaft, and an auxiliary bearing 119 provided on the cylinder block 116 so as to support the auxiliary shaft portion 113. A first balance weight 130 is provided on the auxiliary shaft portion 113 at a top end of the eccentric shaft portion 112, and a second balance weight 111a is provided on the spindle portion 111 at a bottom end of the eccentric shaft portion 112. The first balance weight 130 is coupled to the auxiliary shaft portion 113 by, for example, a screw 131 extending within the first balance weight 130 and the auxiliary shaft portion 113.

Amended independent claim 1 recites a hermetic compressor which includes an electric driving element, a compressing element driven by the electric driving element, and a closed vessel for housing the electric driving element and the compressing element. Claim 1 also recites that the compressing element includes a shaft having an eccentric shaft portion, a spindle portion provided at a bottom surface of the eccentric shaft portion, and an auxiliary shaft portion provided at a top surface of the eccentric shaft portion so as to be coaxial with the spindle portion. Claim 1 further recites a cylinder block having a compression chamber, a main bearing provided on the cylinder block so as to support the spindle portion of the shaft, and an auxiliary bearing provided on the cylinder block so as to support the auxiliary shaft portion. The hermetic compressor of claim 1 also includes a first balance weight provided on the auxiliary shaft portion at a top end of the eccentric shaft portion, and a second balance weight provided on the spindle portion at a bottom end of the eccentric shaft portion. Claim 1 further recites that the first balance weight is coupled to the auxiliary shaft portion by a separate member, *with the separate member being arranged between the first balance weight and the auxiliary shaft portion so as to be in contact with the first balance weight and the auxiliary shaft portion.*

Dreiman discloses a compressor or pump assembly which, as shown in Fig. 1, includes a crankshaft 42 having a cylindrical eccentric 82, with a crankshaft portion 96 extending above the cylindrical eccentric 82. Dreiman also discloses a counterweight portion 92 on the crankshaft 42 below the cylindrical eccentric 82, and a counterweight 106 attached to the crankshaft portion 96.

However, Dreiman does not disclose a first balance weight coupled to the auxiliary shaft portion by a separate member, *with the separate member being arranged between the first balance weight and the auxiliary shaft portion so as to be in contact with the first balance weight and the auxiliary shaft portion*, as required by independent claim 1. Rather, as shown in Fig. 4, Dreiman discloses that the counterweight 106 includes a base portion 108 and an insert portion 110. Dreiman also discloses that the base portion 108 is positioned around the crankshaft portion 96 in a straddling fashion with the arms 112 and 114 of the base portion 108 engaging the flat surfaces 98 and 100 on the crankshaft portion 96 (Fig. 4, and column 4, lines 24-47). Dreiman further discloses that the insert portion 110 then interconnects with the base portion 108 such that holes 138 of the insert portion 110 are aligned with holes 140 of the base portion 108 (Fig. 4 and

column 4, lines 48-64). Dreiman also discloses that screws 142 are inserted into the holes 138 and 140 so as to connect the base portion 108 and the insert portion 110 together and thus form the counterweight 106.

Thus, Dreiman does not disclose a first balance weight coupled to the auxiliary shaft portion by a separate member, with the separate member being arranged between the first balance weight and the auxiliary shaft portion so as to be in contact with the first balance weight and the auxiliary shaft portion, because Dreiman only discloses that the screw 142 is in contact with the base portion 108 and the insert portion 110, and does not disclose that the screw 142 is in contact with the auxiliary shaft portion, as required by independent claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Dreiman reference does not anticipate independent claim 1.

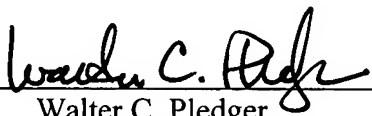
Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1, as well as claims 2-4, 7, 9 and 10 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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